

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

An Attempt to Survive: Existential Predicaments in *The Good Earth*

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By

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This thesis entitled "**An Attempt to Survive: Existential Predicaments in *The Good Earth***" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Prakash Rai has been approved by the undersigned members of thesis committee.

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Abstract

Buck's novel *The Good Earth* explicitly presents the existential predicaments of human life through the protagonists, who ceaselessly struggle to live a meaningful life. Wang Lung and Olan struggle amongst pain, suffering meaningless and nothingness, with patience and courage. They show courage in the fight and stoicism in defeat. The angst of existence can lead to nihilism. But Wang Lung and Olan escape from it and take shelter in optimism. Though, Wang Lung and Olan confront the natural disasters like drought, famine, and flood and at the same time, suffer from the lack of human sympathy, sincerity and kindness yet, they are not pessimist and they show their total commitment in their ways of life. They go to Southern province for their survival and existence, where they place themselves in dangerous circumstances and try their best being alert to their optimistic lives. In the hostile world, Wang Lung and Olan struggle for the quest of meaning, order and existential identity. Wang Lung has chosen to continue his struggle and is totally committed to achieve his goal. Wang Lung and Olan show strong hope and courage in the struggle, which protect them from nihilism and leads them towards existentialism.

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